

BEYOND THE BASICS: SAFE VEHICLE POSITIONING

Move it/Work it

Move it/Work it is a TIM strategy that allows for quick clearance of incidents that can be relocated to a safer location before being worked. Proper windshield size-up upon arrival sets the stage for decision-making that balances scene safety, investigative needs, and traffic management.

Move it

How do you move it? Direct the driver to move to an identified location. If the vehicle is not drivable, use push bumpers or tow cables. More information is available on the Push, Pull, Drag, or Drive fact sheet available on the [Nebraska TIM website](#).

Where do you move it in rural areas?

- The next intersecting road with less traffic.
- Within the right of way, depending on tow response times.
- From blocking both lanes to just one lane.
- If within an intersection, to one of the legs.

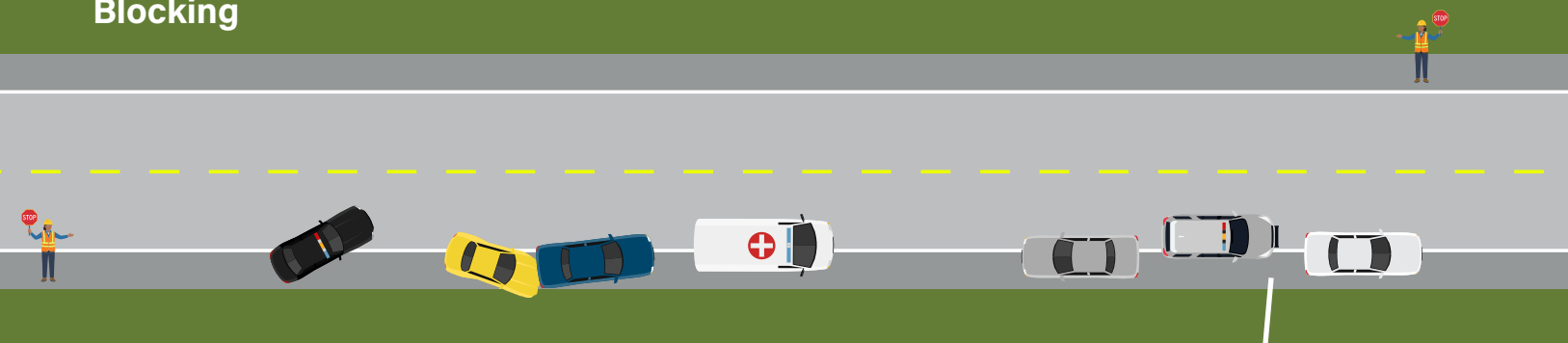
Work it

Typically, incidents that involve injuries, entrapments, fatalities, hazardous materials, or vehicle fires will need to be worked in place.

Considerations:

- How much of the roadway do you need to close to protect your workspace (e.g., partial or full closure)?
- How quickly can you get the resources to safely manage traffic in a closure (i.e., blocking vehicles, advanced warning, traffic control devices, etc.)?
The response time of the resources should impact your decision-making in how you block.

Blocking



Any vehicle can provide a block – the biggest vehicles provide the best blocks. EMS should serve as the blocking vehicle only if they are the first to arrive on scene and should reposition as the scene evolves.

Parallel vs. angled blocking – blocking creates a barrier between traffic and the incident scene where responders are working. Block parallel to the travel lanes or angled if you need more space to protect the scene.

Block where you're seen – avoid blocking just after the crest of a hill or at the end of a curve. If there is inclement weather, block further upstream to give drivers time to see you, react, and slow down.

Extend the scene downstream – avoid redundant and conflicting blocking by positioning personal vehicles downstream, leaving space for tow professionals to conduct recovery efforts.

Other Resources – Check out this 12-minute video on the topic, available on [YouTube](#). This video is a great tool for refresher training! The focus of the Beyond the Basics discussion is to apply these core TIM concepts to expressways and highways and share traffic management best practices when working with limited resources.

Download the Safe Vehicle Positioning Fact Sheet from the Nebraska TIM website [here](#).

SEPTEMBER STATEWIDE VIRTUAL MEETING

The Nebraska TIM Statewide Virtual Meeting on September 16 featured:



TIM in Wildfires 🖱️

In this segment, we explored the critical role TIM plays during wildfires. The discussion focused on coordination among transportation, fire, law enforcement, emergency management, and other partners operating within the incident area. A multidisciplinary panel examined how traffic management is integrated into incident command and resource management. They also shared real-world applications from recent wildfire responses in Nebraska, including lessons learned to strengthen future wildfire and large-scale incident response efforts.



Air Ambulance Operations in TIM 🖱️

This segment covered the role of air ambulances in TIM, including key considerations for establishing and managing safe landing zones, common hazards, incursions within landing zones, and the coordination required among responders during helicopter operations. The discussion also addressed emerging challenges, such as drone activity near incident scenes, and reviewed best practices, lessons learned, and strategies to enhance safety and effectiveness during air medical responses.



Beyond the Basics: Safe Vehicle Positioning 🖱️

This segment provided an in-depth overview of safe vehicle positioning and its application during incident response on highways and freeways.



Statewide Updates 🖱️

Bobbi Brooks, Highway Emergency Program Specialist at the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), presented an overview of current program activities, including training, resources, and upcoming meetings.

Save the Date! The next [Nebraska TIM Statewide Virtual Meeting](#) will be held on December 9, 2026, at 10 a.m. CT/9 a.m. MT!

DISTRICT 6 EXERCISE

District 6 TIM Coalition members conducted two exercises in August to strengthen TIM knowledge and responder partnerships. 51 responders from 14 agencies gathered to learn best practices for safe vehicle positioning, quick-clearance techniques, and medical helicopter landing zone awareness. Attendees also learned about interoperable communications on the State Radio System.

Thank you to all the participants who attended the field exercise and helped make it a success. A special thank you to our partners from Great Plains Health LifeNet, Kent's Towing, Lee Bird Regional Airport, NDOT District 6, Nebraska OCIO, Nebraska State Patrol, North Platte Fire Department, Region 51 Emergency Management, and others who provided time and equipment to successfully execute this event.



Nebraska TIM: Safer, Together



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